

June 8, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to allow for the broadcasting of supplemental audio channels by radio stations as has now been made possible through the implementation of HD Radio technology.

As a member and a work-study student of WUMB-FM Radio Network in Boston, and as a full-time student of the University of Massachusetts Boston, I believe that the advantages of such supplemental broadcasting are numerous and significant. Although I am personally aware of how this proposed change would positively affect the station, I would like to offer my views as a radio listener and as a resident of this Commonwealth.

Currently, there are few non-commercial music stations in or around the city. For myself and for other listeners, the choices for non-commercial music programming are either WGBH-FM, which has a mixed news/music format, and WERS-FM, a non-professional, student-run station. Consequently, stations providing classical music or alternatives to popular music are nearly intolerable due to offensive commentary and commercials.

I believe that WUMB has earned its reputation for being a quality radio station interested in preserving and presenting important music. Over the many years that I have been listening to the station—both as a resident on the island of Martha's Vineyard and in the City—the station has been a true alternative on the dial, and as such, has rightfully earned my trust. Without hesitation, I know that that WUMB will use a supplemental audio channel in the best possible way. Because the station currently uses its programming to meet the needs of a diverse community, I have no doubt that they will continue in this fashion, serving the community-at-large to an even greater degree.

As a student, I also believe that adding a supplemental audio channel through HD Radio technology will be advantageous to UMass Boston: First, it will ensure that the University's affiliated radio station is on par with the country's other top-tier stations. Second, it will ensure that the many students who are involved with the station as work study employees, interns, or as participants in the "Radio Learning Project," will benefit from the industry's latest and best technologies. Finally, it will allow the University to better address its mission of public service by creating more opportunity for outreach.

I hope you will consider the issues I have addressed in this letter when making future decisions regarding supplemental audio channels. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
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